



February 26, 2007

Dear Friends,

The House of Representatives will again act strongly in support of working Americans this week with the *Employee Free Choice Act*, after passing the first federal minimum wage increase in a decade last month.

Employees seek to organize their workplaces because unions offer significant advantages, including higher pay and better health and pension benefits. Unfortunately, each year tens of thousands of workers who attempt to organize face a stunning range of employer intimidation tactics, from forced anti-union meetings with supervisors to outright firings.

The *Employee Free Choice Act* will strengthen worker protection laws by expanding the ways that workers can unionize. [Click here to find out more.](#) I am proud to be a cosponsor of the *Employee Free Choice Act* along with 233 of my colleagues, and will vote to pass this legislation when it comes to the floor this week.

Also, at the end of this week I will travel to Selma, Alabama as a participant in the 8th Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage at the invitation of Congressman John Lewis (D-GA). This trip offers a moving immersion in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. Past participants have described it as one of their most valuable experiences while in Congress, and I look forward to sharing my reactions with you when I return.

Legislative Update

Few issues are more important to us as Americans than education. And yet, the Bush administration and the past majority in Congress have underfunded *No Child Left Behind* by nearly \$55 billion.

I have re-introduced legislation to stop this backward slide on K-12 education. The *Student Achievement and Successful Schools Act* (H.R. 1169) would ensure the best possible education for our students by requiring the White House and Congress to fully fund *No Child Left Behind* before schools can be penalized for failing to meet its requirements. [Click here to read my press release on the Student Achievement and Successful Schools Act \(H.R. 1169\)](#)

Week in Review

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend many events throughout the East Metro Area, including two town hall meetings in St. Paul and West St. Paul with local legislators.

I thank the approximately 100 people who attended these community meetings to share their thoughts about the new direction in Washington. I am especially grateful to those who braved the snow and ice on Saturday. It is an honor to serve constituents so dedicated to our democratic process, and I want you to know that your passion and concern will continually inspire my work.



Congresswoman McCollum speaks to St. Paul-area teenagers who participated in the Interfaith Teen Day of Service. Nearly 100 teenagers from diverse faith backgrounds came together to serve their community and reflect on their experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty".

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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